I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: March 13, 2009 Electronic Signature for Brian R. Tomkins: /Brian R. Tomkins/

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE Group Art Unit: 3733

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-447 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Ralph et al.

Application No.: 10/771,597

Group Art Unit: 3733

Filed: February 4, 2004

For: INSERTION TOOL FOR USE WITH INTERVERTEBRAL SPACERS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

MS AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated November 13, 2008, finally rejecting claims 1--11, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: